

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims have been divided into Groups as follows:

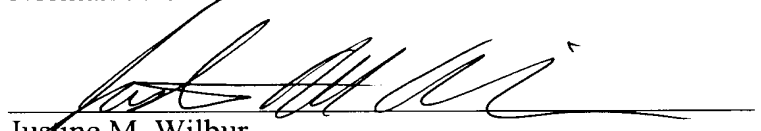
- Group I: Claims 1-8, drawn to a method of assessing a grade of vascular injury by determining the level of PTX3 in a test sample;
- Group II: Claims 8 and 9, drawn to a diagnostic agent containing an anti-PTX3 antibody;
- Group III: Claims 10 and 11 (all in part), drawn to a method of screening a medicament for vascular injury by determining the amount of PTX3 protein; and
- Group IV: Claims 10 and 11 (all in part), drawn to a method of screening a medicament for vascular injury by determining the amount of PTX3 gene.

Applicants elect, without traverse, Group I, Claims 1-8 (drawn to a method of assessing a grade of vascular injury by determining the level of PTX3 in a test sample), for examination.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for examination on the merits, and early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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